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Editor's note

Four years ago Japan's brightest Olympians had it good. With home turf advantage, they chewed up Nagano's slopes, chutes and rinks to take a grand total of 10 medals. But as the opening ceremony hits the tube tomorrow night beamed all the way from Salt Lake City, Utah, our beloved athletes will have to put security threats, scandal and daunting international competition out of their minds. Feature writer Tama Miyake gets the inside story on the country's current crop of athletic aspirants. *Georgia Jacobs*

Tell us what you think: comments@metropolis.co.jp

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